



# **SEND a COW UGANDA**

## **END OF PROGRAMME EVALUATION FOR NORTHERN UGANDA STOCKAID EXTENSION PROGRAMME (NUSEP)**

**April 2002 – March 2008**



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# Executive Summary

This final evaluation was conducted from 12th - 22nd January 2010 to assess the impact of the Northern Uganda Stockaid Extension Programme (NUSEP) on the participating women and their families as well as establishing the impact of the programme on the wider community. The evaluation covered the six (6) programme districts of Lira, Apac, Soroti, Kumi, Arua and Nebbi. Key methodologies were; interviews, case studies and focus group discussions with women groups and observations among others. Key respondents included; relevant district and sub-county staff (Veterinary Officers and Community Development Officers) as well as Send a Cow Uganda (SACU) staff and CSOs.

Overall, the evaluation revealed that the programme had achieved its intended objectives and most of the planned activities had been accomplished. The evaluation found that the programme had the following major impact on the beneficiary women groups, households and the wider community: promoting the rights and situation of women, increasing income, food security, production, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation of members. Other impacts are evident in more involvement of women in decision making, leadership, improved self esteem, social network and confidence among women beneficiaries.

The evaluation further indicated that the programme has important elements of sustainability that could sustain the gains made by NUSEP over the years of implementation. These include; relevancy to government plans and policies e.g. NAADS, PEAP; availability of extension staff at the local level, use of appropriate technology and consideration of social-cultural context, improved skills and knowledge, collaboration and networking and the inculcation of a spirit of caring and sharing among beneficiaries e.g. through the principle of 'passing on the gift.'

Major challenges that the programme was confronted with include a combination of natural conditions such as drought and diseases of livestock and crops, political instability in the areas and economic setback affected implementation. Other challenges that were faced are; water scarcity, and a couple of programmatic challenges such as no value addition, late delivery of inputs, coordination challenges among others affected implementation.

However, NUSEP draws important lessons to inform future programmes. One of the key lessons is that improving the wellbeing of women hinges on providing basic literacy. Additionally, integrating small income generating opportunities for women helps increase their access to income and other resources but does not ultimately translate to eliminate gender based violence. Addressing gender based violence needs to be specifically targeted within the programme to eliminate it. The evaluation further revealed that the model of giving out livestock to women promotes women's status as subjects of rights with possible long term implications while livestock provision provides multiple benefits. It was also learnt that involvement of both men and women ensures increased cohesion in the households besides promoting women's participation in development activities.

In view of the findings, the evaluation recommends the following; SACU should promote gender awareness and women rights with a RBA to programming while realigning its programme and implementation approaches with clear phase out strategies which should include strengthening the capacity of women and youth groups to stay self sustaining beyond NUSEP. The evaluation concludes that NUSEP has huge potential for replication in other areas or to be adapted by other development actors thus, SACU should widely share its NUSEP model and approaches to influence practices and approaches in community development.